

# I want to **DRIVE A TRUCK!** Where do I start?



## **RESEARCH** EXPECTATIONS VS. REALITIES

When it comes to becoming a truck driver, the best place to start is with research. Though most people start with getting information on the obvious things like wages and benefits; they spend much of their time watching videos and looking at pictures of shiny trucks. Unfortunately, most people that enter this industry are unaware of what they are actually getting themselves into.

Truck driving is not your typical job, it's a lifestyle; it becomes a part of you. So, before you pick out the model of truck you want to drive, you need to ask yourself some tough questions. What are you hoping to get out of this, a career or a job? How long can you be away from home? What impacts will being away from home have on you, your family and friends? How much money do you need to make? Is money more important than work/life balance? Do you enjoy your own company? ... you get the point. Once you've answered these questions and more, you can then narrow down what type of truck driver you want to be; long-haul, short-haul, etc. Once you have this information, take a look at our career guides to see what it takes to make it all work and if it's something that will suit your needs.



## **SPEAK WITH INDUSTRY** LIFESTYLE | ROUTES | PAY

Once you've got a good idea of what kind of truck driver you'd like to be and what it takes to be one, reach out to industry. Our employers are always happy to discuss what they are looking for in their drivers. Asking about how long their drivers stay out, what typical routes they travel and average pay are all fair questions. Many companies provide a training internship in partnership with the training school, so if you'd like to work for them, tell them! They may help you arrange this.



## **TRAINING** TRAIN FOR YOUR CAREER

Taking the right training program is key. As in life, there are shortcuts to getting a 1A license, but they do not come with the same opportunities for employment. Here on PEI we only recommend a 12 week program with 4 of those weeks being an internship with a company. Training and getting your foot in the door... it just makes sense!

Training can be the difference between success and failure in this industry. And, it often comes down to more than just taking the right program. Having the right attitude and the desire to learn will help you get more out of your training. Don't forget, you are paying for this. Make sure you get your value.